

To: Members, House Human Services Committee
From: Karen Horn, Director Public Policy & Advocacy
Date: March 1, 2023
Re: Recovery Residences, H. 222

Thank you for inviting us to testify again on H. 222.

We urge you to include in H. 222 the definition of recovery residence that is proposed in H. 241 because that definition is referenced in H. 222 at page 10 of the bill as introduced. We also urge you to assure that the statute is clear that there is regulatory oversight by a state agency. The language from H. 241 is below and includes our proposal for amendment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is added to read:

§ 4812. RECOVERY RESIDENCES

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Recovery residence" means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:

(A) Provides tenants with peer support, an environment that prohibits the use of alcohol and the illegal use of prescription drugs or other illegal substances, and assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorders.

(B) Is subject to regulatory oversight by the Department of Health and certified by an organization that is a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences or obtains a preliminary certification within 45 days of operation and adheres to the national standards established by the Alliance or its successor in interest, including duty of care standards. If there is no successor in interest, the Department of Health shall designate a certifying organization to uphold appropriate standards for recovery housing.